

Activity 4: If we can't see air, how do we know it is there?

Objective: Students will learn that even though air is colorless, odorless, and tasteless, it still exists.

Duration: 1/2 of class period.

Materials:

- ☐ large deflated balloon

Vocabulary:

- ☐ Air

Focus Questions:

- ☐ What is air?
- ☐ Can we feel air?
- ☐ Can we see air?
- ☐ Can air take up space?

Activity Procedures:

This activity is to help students understand that although air is colorless, tasteless, and odorless, it still exists.

1. Blow up a balloon and hold the end shut by pinching it together. Ask students if they can guess what is inside and after they have given suggestions, explain that the balloon is filled with air. Explain that air takes up space and takes the shape of the object it fills.
2. Ask a volunteer to push on the surface to feel that there is something inside and ask them if they know what they are touching and what is inside the balloon.
3. Ask several volunteers to stand facing the class and allow some air from the balloon to escape onto the students' hands. Ask the students what they feel and if they can see anything when you let the air out.

This activity can conclude by further discussion about the characteristics of air.

Follow-up Questions:

- ☐ Why can you feel air coming out of the balloon but you can't see it?
- ☐ What are some times or situations where you can feel air?